

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

AID-05 CEA-01 EA-09 FRB-01 IO-10 NEA-10 OPIC-06 SP-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

AGR-10 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 H-02 /139 W

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R 281359Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8956

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
WRAP-UP

REF: A) STATE 246801; B) MT/A(75)2

SUMMARY. MTC FALL MEETING COVERED USUAL WIDE RANGE OF SHIPPING TOPICS WITH MOST DISCUSSION DEVOTED TO WORLD TANKER SITUATION AND ON MANDATE FOR EXTENSION AD HOC GROUP ON FOC. DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TIME, CONSULTATION EXERCISE WAS NOT HELD, BUT DOCUMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED AT JAN MEETING UNDER NEW AGENDA ITEM ON "EASTERN BLOC SHIPPING". END SUMMARY.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MTC SESSION, KEYED TO REF B, BEGINNING ITEM 5 FOLLOWS:

1. ON TANKER SITUATION (DAF/MTC/75.30 & 37) SECRETARIAT PAINTED DARK PICTURE AND QUESTIONED WHETHER LETTING COMMERCIAL FORCES RESOLVE SURPLUS WAS REALLY A VIABLE OPTION. MTC WAS SPLIT ON NEED FOR GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT OR NEED FOR A MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL APPROACH.

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SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR OECD WORKING GROUP TO STUDY WORLD

TANKER SITUATION RECEIVED SUPPORT ONLY FROM NORWAY AND GREECE. EVEN SO, MTC AGREED TO KEEPING THE TANKER PROBLEM UNDER REVIEW AND APPROVED FOLLOWING MINUTES FOR THE RECORD WHICH MEANS QUESTION OF WORKING GROUP WILL BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT MEETING.

BEGIN TEXT

THE MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE NOTED THAT ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE SITUATION FOR THE WORLD TANKER FLEET ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. IT WAS FELT SUFFICIENT INFO WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE EFFORT ON VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE WORLD TANKER INDUSTRY AND THAT THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE WORLD TANKER SITUATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON THE AGENDA OF THE MTC. AT ITS NEXT MEETING, THE MTC WOULD RECEIVE REPORTS ON:

I) DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMCO MEPC AND ASSEMBLY CONCERNING RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF FUTURE SEPARATE BALLAST REGULATIONS. (GREECE WILL PROVIDE REPORT).

II) THE WORK OF INTERTANKO.

III) PROGRESS WITHIN WORKING PARTY NO.6 (SHIPBUILDING).

IV) NATIONAL MEASURES BEING INTRODUCED OR ENVISAGED.

V) OTHER RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION OF THESE REPORTS THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECONSIDER THE QUESTION OF A WORKING GROUP ON WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENT AT THE PRESENT MEETING. IN THE INTERVAL, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD INVESTIGATE THE MODALITIES OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A GROUP AND CIRCULATE POSSIBLE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IT.

END TEXT.

DURING DISCUSSION OF SHIPPING POLICY MATTERS (DAF/MTC/75.40) US DEL REPORTED PER REFTTEL A. NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE ADDRESSED TO THE DEL REGARDING RECENT US-USSR GRAIN SHIPPING DEVELOPMENTS. OUR

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RESPONSE WAS TO EFFECT THAT (1) DEL HAD NO INFORMATION ON GRAIN AGREEMENT OTHER THAN PRESS REPORT; (2) MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE GRAIN FREIGHT RATES HAD BEEN RECENTLY NEGOTIATED, AND (3) NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE MARITIME AGREEMENT WERE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. QUESTIONS ON HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MOVE TO REPEAL RECIPROCAL TAX PROVISIONS FOR FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS AND ON PANAMA CANAL WERE ALSO RAISED.

3. DISCUSSION ON EXTENSION OF MANDATE OF AD HOC GROUP ON FOC (DAF/MTC/75.29 & ANNEX) WAS LENGTHY AND US, TOGETHER WITH LIKEMINDED DELEGATIONS, WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN MODIFIED TEXT OF FRENCH DRAFT WHICH CONFORMS TO INSTRUCTIONS PARA 7, REFTEL.

4. UNCTAD AGENDA ITEM WAS NOT DISCUSSED AS IT WAS AGREED TO CONSIDER THE MATTER AT THE SPECIAL GROUP SESSION.

5. DUE TO LACK OF TIME CONSULTATION EXERCISE (DAF/MTC/75.35 & 34) WAS NOT HELD. HOWEVER, DOCUMENTS WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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USED FOR NEW AGENDA ITEM AT WINTER MTC ON BLOC SHIPPING WHICH UK DEL PROPOSED AND OTHERS READILY AGREED TO. PURPOSE OF DISCUSSIONS WILL BE TO ATTEMPT TO ASSESS THE LONG TERM PROSPECTS OF THE EXPANSION OF STATE TRADING FLEETS AND THE IMPLICATIONS AND/OR THREAT TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE MERCHANT MARINES OF OECD COUNTRIES.

10. RE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1975 (DAF/MTC/75.33) US DEL SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS, INCLUDING AGREEING TO EDIT DRAFT AS IS CUSTOMARY.

11. DATE OF NEXT MTC IS JANUARY 27 & 28, 1975. NO

DECISION WAS MADE ON NEED FOR B COORDINATION PRIOR
TO 3RD SESSION IPG ON INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL
TRANSPORT, BUT JANUARY 29 & 30 HAVE BEEN RESERVED
SHOULD BLUM (SWEDEN) IN CONSULTATION WITH WILLIS (US)
DEEM SUCH TO BE NECESSARY. ONE DAY SESSION OF AD HOC
GROUP ON FOC WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE.
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